

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-11, 13, 14 and 16-20 are currently pending in this application and shall remain pending following the entry of this response. Claims 2, 3, 6, 12 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9-11, 13 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1, 11 and 17 are independent claims. Applicant submits that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance as all claims have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 15 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective parent claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant has amended each of independent claims 1, 11 and 17 to recite the subject matter recited in claims 6 and 15 and their respective base claims. An allowance of all outstanding claims is kindly requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Palaez et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0185836, herein after *Palaez*), in view of Houde et. al. (US Patent No. 5,978,678, herein after *Houde*) Lozano et al. (US Patent No. 5,982,869, hereinafter *Lozano*) and further in view of Vikberg (US Patent No. 7,283,518 herein after *Vikberg*). This rejection is traversed, as each of these references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter of the rejected claims.

As stated above, claims 6 and 15 (now cancelled and their subject matter incorporated into their respective base claims by amendment) recite allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended each of the pending independent claims 1, 11 and 17 to recite the allowable subject matter of claims 6 or 15 and their respective base claims. Therefore, all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the combination of Palaez, Houde, Lozano and Vikberg fails to disclose, suggest or render obvious the features recited in claims 1, 11 and 17. All of the claim recitations of the present application have not been taught by the references cited, and, thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims and an allowance of all outstanding claims is kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Raffi Gostanian at (972) 849-1310.

Respectfully submitted,
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